

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 45-51 and 53-59 are now pending.

On July 10, 2003, the undersigned filed an Amendment and Petition under Rule 48(b) to delete inventors **Masahiko AOYAMA** and **Kazuhida KAWAI** so that the named inventors are **Akimitsu SUGIURA** and **Yoshitaka SATO** only. It is respectfully requested that a Notice be issued that the Petition has been granted and the inventorship correction made.

Claims 45 and 54 have been amended and claims 58 and 59 have been added for clarity and consistent with the intended scope of those claims. Claim 45 is submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as previously presented claim 47 and Claim 54 is submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as previously presented claim 48.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Michelle N. Lester
Reg. No. 32,331

MNL:slj
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000